

Remarks

The specification has been amended to delete any reference to specific claims. No new matter is being introduced.

Claims 15-20 and 22-27 remain in the application, with claims 15 and 27 in independent form. Claims 15, 17-19, 26 and 27 are currently amended. Claims 20, 24 and 25 remain as previously presented. Claims 16, 22 and 23 stand withdrawn. Claims 1-14, 21 and 28 are cancelled.

Claims 15, 17-21 and 24-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 15-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by, or alternatively under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over, German Patent No. DE 19731305 to Thamm.

Claims 15-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by, or alternatively under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,951,349 to Dietrich.

Claims 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over either German Patent No. DE 19731305 to Thamm or U.S. Patent No. 4,951,349 to Dietrich in view of the well known art.

Claim 17 stands allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 27 stands allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph.

Claims 15, 17-19, 26 and 27 are currently amended to address the various §112 rejections related to improper antecedent basis and/or confusing language. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the §112 rejections are overcome.

Claim 15 is currently amended to clarify that the collar includes at least one recess, which extends from an outer edge of the collar inward to the cylindrical hollow portion. Claim 15 further requires that the recess define the material lug. Specifically, claim 15 includes the limitations:

... the collar (3, 3') has at least one recess (6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14) extending from an outer edge of the collar (3, 3') to the hollow cylindrical section (2) to define a material lug (4, 4', 5, 5').

Referring to the Thamm reference (DE 19731305), the Examiner identifies element(s) 10, 10a of the Thamm reference as disclosing the hollow cylindrical portion of the bushing, and element 90a of the Thamm reference as disclosing the collar of the bushing. The Examiner references Figure 3 of the Thamm reference for support that collar 90a of the Thamm reference includes an undulating profile in the axial direction. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Referring to Figures 3, 4a and 4b of the Thamm reference, it is clear that that the collar 90a of the Thamm reference includes a planar profile, and does NOT undulate as required by claim 15.

Furthermore, the Examiner states in paragraph 10 of the Official Office Action dated September 01, 2009, that “at least two material lugs 10 are provided on regions of the collar that are oppositely situated relative to a longitudinal axis of the bushing.” The Examiner appears to identify element 10 of the Thamm reference as identifying the material lugs, however the Examiner has already identified element 10 as part of the hollow cylindrical section. Applicant respectfully submits that it is improper for the Examiner to contend that element 10 of the Thamm reference discloses both the hollow cylindrical section of the bushing and the material lug of the bushing.

Additionally, The Examiner has failed to identify a recess extending from an outer edge of the collar to the hollow cylindrical section to define the material lug as required by claim 15. Applicant respectfully submits that the collar 90a of the Thamm reference does not disclose a recess extending from an outer edge of the collar 90a to the hollow cylindrical portion 10.

Accordingly, for the above described reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the Thamm reference fails to disclose each and every limitation of claim 15 as currently amended. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Thamm reference does not anticipate nor render obvious claim 15 as currently amended.

Referring to the Dietrich reference (US 4,951,349), the Examiner identified elements 7, 7' of the Dietrich reference as disclosing the material lugs. However, the Examiner has failed to identify a recess extending from an outer edge of the collar to the hollow cylindrical section, which defines the material lug as required by claim 15. Accordingly, the material lugs 7, 7' of the Dietrich reference do not extend from the outer edge of the collar to the hollow cylindrical portion.

Applicant respectfully submits that the collar 15 of the Dietrich reference does not disclose a recess extending from an outer edge of the collar 15 to the hollow cylindrical portion 5 that defines the material lugs. Accordingly, for the above described reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the Dietrich reference fails to disclose each and every limitation of claim 15 as currently amended. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Thamm reference does not anticipate nor render obvious claim 15 as currently amended.

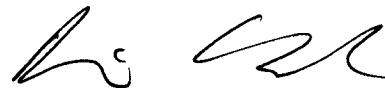
As noted above, Applicant respectfully submits that neither the Thamm reference nor the Dietrich reference anticipates nor renders obvious claim 15 as currently amended. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 15 as currently amended is patentable. As claims 16-20 and 22-26 all depend either directly or indirectly from claim 15, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 16-20 and 22-26 are also patentable for at least the same reasons.

The remaining references cited but not applied to the claims have been considered. Since the Examiner has apparently considered these references as less pertinent than the above discussed reference(s), further discussion of the non-applied references, at this time, is considered unnecessary. However, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the subject patent application patentably define over all references of record either independently or in combination.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Application, as amended, is now presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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